Transport Directorates have been advised to enforce these standards,

(iv) The lead content in petrol has been brought down to a national average of 0.18 gramme per litre. It is proposed to reduce them further.

(v) Public awareness campaigns have been launched on various measures to prevent and control pollution from Vehicles,

(vi) More stringent norms for vehicular emissions have been notified under the Centrol Motor Vehicles Rules in September, 1993 which would come into effect from 1996.

(vii) Automobile manufacturers have been asked to develop and improve their technology to meet the more stringent standards for emissions from vehicles,

(viii) City planners arc advised to incorporate in their plans the long-term requirements from vehicles.

The results of the steps taken to control automobile pollution in Nagpur has not been quantified,

(c) The Government docs not propose to impose any restrictions or control over owning of vehicles in order to control pollution.

Maintaining Ecological Richness of Malabar Region

6618. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Malabar region is losing its ecological uniqueness with several of its animal and plant species rearing extinction due to international human activities, and.

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to preserve and conserve the ecological richness of the Malabar region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The ecology of the Malabar region is affected by the biotic pressures arising from increase in human and animal pollution and economic activities like construction of dams, roads, mining, etc. However, there is no report of the extinction of animal and plant species in the region during the recent past.

The Government has taken several measures to conserve the ecological richness of the region, which include:

— Establishment of a Protected Area Network consisting of a National Park, Wildlife Sanctuaries and a Biosphere Reserve;

— Enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

— Eco-development Plans for Sanctuaries and National Park; and

— Funding of Research Projects etc.

Phasing out of Ozone Depleting Substances

6619. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India intend to phase out ozone depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbons by the year 2010 and replace them by adopting an alternative, environment friendly technology; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) As a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that

deplete the Ozone Layer, India intends to phase out such substances in accordance with provisions of the Protocol. A country Programme has been prepared to phase out ozone depleting substances in India, will be determined by the availability of financial resources and transfer of technology from the Multilateral Fund of the Protocol.

Closing Down a Temple in Hartfordshirc

6620. SHRI OP. KOHLI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several thousand Hindus took a protest march against the decision to close down a temple in Hartfordshirc donated by the former Bcatle George-Harrison in 1973 as appeared in the newspapers of 18th March, 1994;

(b) if so. the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter relates to the functioning of the Bhakti Vedanta Manor as a Hindu temple and its request to the local District Council for an access route to the Temple which would enable devotees to visit the Temple without disturbance to the residents of the area. It also relates to an enforcement order served on the Temple by the local District Council which took effect on March 16, 1994 under which the Bhakti Vedanta Manor would cease to function as a temple. Efforts to reach an amicable settlement in the matter are continuing. The Indian High Commission in London has been maintaining informal contacts with the various parties concerned to promote a satisfactory outcome of these efforts.

Realisation of Compensation Amount from Bangladesh Government

6621. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has realised the amount of compensation or part of it from the government of Bangladesh in lieu of compensation paid to Indian citizens migrated from Bangladesh before 1971; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Government took up with the Government of Bangladesh the question of compensation for properties belonging to Indian citizens who migrated from the erstwhile East Pakistan before 1971. Our concerns about an expeditious resolution of this issue were also conveyed to the Bangladesh authorities on several occasions. The position taken by the Government of Bangladesh is that the settlement of the question of compensation for Indian nationals would have to await the final settlement of assets and liabilities between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Moves to Forge an Asian Alliance

6622. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the context of NATO having invited their former Warsaw pact adversaries to become partners in the Western Military alliance, any moves have been made between Government of India and other Asian Nations such as Chine, to forge an Asian alliance or other limited military pact; and

(b) if so, the details of moves so far made and at what level the matter stands